



Date: January 20, 2026

To: Chairman Tomczyk and members of the Senate Committee on Transportation and Local Government

From: Janet Zander, Advocacy & Public Policy Coordinator

Re: Support for SB 795

Thank you for this opportunity to share testimony on SB 795. My name is Janet Zander. I serve as the Advocacy and Public Policy Coordinator for the Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources, Inc. (GWAAR). I also provide policy and advocacy support to the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN).

Family Caregivers are the backbone of the long-term care system. They are estimated to provide around 80% of all care in Wisconsin and across the nation. There are more than one million family caregivers in Wisconsin providing care for a family member or friend with complex medical conditions or disabilities. More than 1 in 5 Wisconsin caregivers receive no paid or unpaid support. While most family caregivers care for one person, nearly 25% care for two or more adults.

Unfortunately, many caregivers carry a silent burden; the constant fear of what happens to their loved one if they—the caregiver—are suddenly incapacitated. This fear is a major driver of caregiver stress, anxiety, burnout, and guilt, particularly when they feel they are the sole provider of care. SB 795, informed by a Wisconsin family caregiver, was drafted specifically to address this fear and reduce stress for our state's family caregivers. SB 795 provides a simple, common-sense solution to this anxiety. By allowing the Department of Transportation (DOT) to link care-recipient contact information to a driver's license or state ID, ensures law enforcement can immediately identify and assist vulnerable individuals during an emergency. This proactive step prevents crisis situations where a person with complex needs might go hours or even days without care.

For all the reasons noted, GWAAR and WAAN support SB 795. GWAAR and WAAN thank Senator Quinn and Representative Green for their leadership on this constituent-led bill. This legislation ensures that when a caregiver is sidelined, their loved one is not left behind. We respectfully ask you to support Wisconsin's family caregivers by passing SB 795 and providing caregivers with the peace of mind they deserve. Thank you for your time and your commitment to Wisconsin's aging population.

*The Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources, Inc. (GWAAR - <https://gwaar.org/>) is a nonprofit agency committed to supporting the successful delivery of aging programs and services in our service area consisting of 70 counties (all but Dane and Milwaukee) and 11 tribes in Wisconsin. GWAAR is one of three Area Agencies on Aging in Wisconsin. GWAAR provides lead aging agencies in our service area with training, technical assistance, and advocacy to ensure the availability and quality of programs and services to meet the changing needs of older people in Wisconsin. GWAAR is also a member of the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN - <https://gwaar.org/wisconsin-aging-advocacy-network>) a collaboration of organizations and individuals working with and for Wisconsin's older adults to shape policy solutions that ensure we can all thrive as we age.*

Contact:

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